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## **Advisory Council on Child Poverty and Strengthening Families** **2020 Council Activity**

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### **A. Statement of Purpose and Authority**

The Advisory Council was created by 2018 Acts and Resolves No. 207 for the dual purposes of:

1. identifying and examining structural and other issues in Vermont that lead to families living in poverty and create conditions that prevent families from moving out of poverty; and
2. advancing policies that promote financial stability and asset building, support safety nets for families with low income, and mitigate the effects of childhood poverty, with the goal to reduce incidences of childhood poverty.

The Advisory Council met one time in 2020 to receive testimony related to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on child care and early learning, affordable housing and family homelessness, economic empowerment and community supports, and trauma and family supports. The Advisory Council did not meet more regularly during the summer and fall of 2020 to reduce demand and scheduling conflicts on staff and Council members, who were involved in vastly extended legislative session that focused on the most immediate crisis. The Advisory Council intends to resume meeting regularly beginning in the summer of 2021.

### **B. Recommendations**

The Advisory Council did not advance any recommendations in 2020.